

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Mike Rademacher, Ron Santosuosso, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Approximately 7 visitors were present, mostly from Pleasant Street

1. The minutes of 11/16/2004 were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No comments.

3. East Arlington Parking Study

Scott Smith and Jeff Maxtutis made a presentation at Tufts University earlier in the day. Students choose among potential projects, and we will learn if our project was chosen by 1/27. An initial public meeting is planned at Fox Library on Monday 2/7.

Mike Rademacher arrived at this point.

4. Downing Square

Elisabeth explained the difference in the current plans from what was previously presented:

- At the corner of Park Avenue Extension and Bow, the curb is extended, and a crosswalk added
- The north side of Lowell going westbound has a shorter extension (to accommodate more parking)
- Lowell Street on the east side retains its full 30' width to allow for delivery truck parking

Ron Santosuosso offered to obtain the measurements for parking spaces.

Scott Smith inquired as to the cost of the improvements. He suggested that two cost estimates be prepared:

- With all crosswalks raised
- With only the Park Avenue (uncontrolled) crosswalk raised.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones suggested doing a mock-up in the spring, with a portable speed hump at the Park Avenue crosswalk. There was general agreement that a design speed of 20 MPH would be appropriate. Ron will look into drainage issue.

5. Town Reports

DPW (Ron Santosuosso)

- In Winter mode, with a major focus on snow removal (Note: on 1/23/2005, Arlington received approximately 2 feet of snow)
- Summer Street project is down for the winter, but is running over budget. Issues include the locations of gas lines.

Police (Lt. Jim McHugh)

There was some towing as a result of the snow emergency.

Planning (Kevin O'Brien)

Kevin reported on his meeting with the Commission on Disabilities. Issues include

- Continuing progress on Mass Ave. curb cut ramps. Elisabeth Carr-Jones asked whether the crosswalk at Lafayette Street was on the list. Ron Santosuosso replied that it was. Kevin asked that Elisabeth send the curb cut inventory to Joey Glushko in Planning.
- The idea was raised of adding bumpouts on Mass. Ave by the crosswalk at Bartlett (Foodmaster). This will enable an adequate curb ramp to be installed on the church side of Mass Ave. A pedestrian warning sign is also needed at this location.
- No new development is in the pipeline.

6. Pleasant Street

Kevin O'Brien reported that he met with residents at Ed Cuoco's house to discuss the longstanding issue of truck traffic and speeding on Pleasant Street. Ed Cuoco (who was attending the TAC meeting) outlined the issues as follows:

- During the day, poor observance by motorists of the marked crosswalks
- Dangerous pedestrian crossing and driveway exit situation, near the bus stop and curve just north of Route 2. Traffic exiting Route 2 west takes a fast right onto Pleasant Street.
- During the night, speeding truck traffic.

Kevin O'Brien suggested that the town contact the trucking companies to request their cooperation in reducing noise and speed. Ed Cuoco has assembled a list of trucking companies whose vehicles are frequently seen on Pleasant Street.

7. Symmes

Kevin O'Brien explained that the special permit process was being delayed, due to the zoning requirement for a medical office use. Other work, including drainage, the neighborhood protection plan, and conservation easements, is progressing.

8. Traffic Calming – Cambridge

Jeff Maxtutis introduced Juan Avendano, Traffic Calming Project Manager for the City of Cambridge, who discussed various aspects of Cambridge's traffic calming program.

- a. Stakeholder groups include city council, DPW, Police, Fire, EMS and residents
 - Fire Department nixed raised devices on Cardinal Medeiros (it is also sees substantial truck traffic)
 - Community meetings to get general consensus among residents, who generally want raised devices
- b. Funds come from the city (some use of Chapter 90)
 - To minimize cost, work is done in conjunction with existing DPW projects
- c. Selection criteria include high speeds, and large number of pedestrians combined with indications of especially vulnerable pedestrian groups (e.g. near a playground)
- d. Examples of raised devices on 3rd street, Columbia Street, Rindge and Cedar

- Aim for a 7-degree slope (6 inches in 9 feet), but sometimes the curb heights are not 6 inches
- Willow Street may have an issue with truck noise

e. Chicanes are on 3rd Street, Columbia. Latest example is on Sparks Street between Huron and Brattle

f. Rindge Avenue is an example of narrowed (10') travel lanes. No problem with the MBTA (bus 83 operated on Rindge) but the City needs to work closely with the MBTA when traffic calming is planned for a bus route.

9. Churchill Avenue

Mike Rademacher reported that he met with residents. The main issue is speeding traffic coming from Gray via Endicott. We briefly discussed the idea of making Endicott one way westbound, but decided not to recommend that at this time. Mike will write up the recommendations for a vote at the next TAC meeting. They will include

1. Stop sign at Endicott
2. Advance stop ahead sign on Churchill SB at Wildwood. Include stop bars.
3. Spot enforcement
4. Radar sign

10. Traffic Calming Forum

Cara Seiderman will be speaking in Belmont on February 10th. Ed Starr will have a notice placed in the Advocate.

11. New at-large Member

We agreed that 2/15 would be the closing date for membership applications.

12. Dallin School

Jeff Maxtutis and Elisabeth Carr-Jones plan to attend a meeting of the Permanent Town Building committee on 1/26 (5 PM Peirce School), to discuss plans for Dallin School.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM

Handouts:

Agenda package including agenda, minutes from 11/16/2004 and status of actions to be done – from Ed Starr

Downing Square diagram – from Elisabeth Carr Jones

Map of Churchill Ave – from Mike Rademacher